

winged Black Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*). The latter has no dark patch on the side of the breast, a paler rump and tail and brighter reddish legs.

I am well acquainted with this species in winter plumage. I have frequently observed it as an autumn migrant in England—visiting estuaries, brackish and fresh-water lagoons and marshes, especially on the east coast—during its movement southward from its breeding haunts in Northern Europe, e.g. Denmark, Germany, Holland, etc., to its winter quarters in Africa. This little marsh tern was an extremely common winter visitor to Lagos, Nigeria, where I spent two years.

—SYDNEY JACOBS, Nedlands.

**Cockatiel in the Wheatbelt.**—As a contribution to information on the recent spread, or invasion, of the Cockatiel (*Nymphicus hollandicus*) I offer the following observations. On August 31, 1974 on Mr Roger Forte's farm at Latham I observed 7 birds. In about 30 years of observing the birds in the area Mr Forte had never seen this species before. At Merredin I observed 10 birds on February 6 and 40 birds on February 22, 1975. Mr Paddy Crook, a farmer who is keenly interested in the local wildlife, having lived most of his life in the district (about 40 years) had never seen the Cockatiel previously until this month (February, 1975).

—GREG LINSTED, Merredin.

**A Recent Breeding Record of *Charadrius melanops* in the Metropolitan Area.**—During an excursion to Lake Herdsman on December 1, 1974, two adult Black-fronted Dotterels, *Charadrius melanops*, were observed. I followed them into the corner of a mudflat. One bird was always running away from me, then squatting down, spreading the tail and lowering both wings. The matter became more interesting now and I tried to spot a nest or fledglings. Soon after, only 1 metre away from me, I discovered the young dotterels. Being precocial, the legs were the most conspicuous feature of the half-thumb sized birds. The tarsus measured 26 mm, while the centre toes were 13 mm. Measurements of the beak and wing were 9 mm and 14 mm respectively.

—OTTO MUELLER, Wembley.

**A Further Record of Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta*, in the South West.**—On November 27, 1973, at Benger Swamp, I observed a slender egret with black bill, black legs and two plumes extending back horizontally from the nape. This I supposed must be a Little Egret although it did not appear to be obviously smaller than the White Egrets, *Egretta alba* which were frequent though none was close enough to serve as a 'yardstick'.

I returned to Benger Swamp on December 4, 1973 and spent some time examining egrets which appeared 'under-sized' without conclusive results until I located a typical Little Egret in breeding plumage standing in a group of resting White-faced Herons, *Ardea novaehollandiae*. This bird I viewed in a good light with X 8 binoculars and X 20 telescope at distances down to c. 60 m. Bill, legs and, I think, feet, were black. The bird appeared somewhat smaller than the herons, both resting and in flight. Its rate of wing beat was similar to that of the herons from which it separated when flushed.

It is just possible that there may have been more than one Little Egret present. It seemed to me that the nape plumes of the second bird identified were longer and more tapering than those of the first, and it is by no means certain that all my apparently 'undersized' egrets were one and the same.

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Harvey.